



2004-2005 Small Grants Program

PROGRAM SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) is a partnership of 17 state and federal agencies working in concert with local government, businesses, and the environmental community to implement a regional wetlands recovery strategy for coastal Southern California (stretching from Point Conception to the border with Mexico). The WRP is headed by a Governing Board comprised of top officers from each of the state and federal agencies. The Wetlands Managers Group, which is comprised of staff representatives from the state and federal partners, is the body with primary responsibility for project evaluation and selection. The WRP also has a Science Advisory Panel and a Public Advisory Committee to help guide its efforts, and it has initiated a wetlands task force in each of the five Southern California coastal counties to help coordinate efforts within each county. Finally, the Coastal Conservancy serves as staff to the Wetlands Recovery Project. Projects that are selected for the WRP Work Plan are carried out by the Coastal Conservancy in cooperation with local partners.

The long-term vision of the WRP is to reestablish a mosaic of functioning wetland and riparian systems that supports a diversity of fish and wildlife species. The *WRP Regional Strategy* defines six overarching goals to guide the efforts of the Wetlands Recovery Project towards achieving this vision. The regional goals provide a framework for setting policies and priorities for wetlands' acquisition and restoration projects. The *Five Year Implementation Plan* is a mid-range planning document that identifies specific actions for achieving the regional goals. Both the Regional Strategy and Implementation Plan are available for review on the WRP web site: <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp>.

The WRP Small Grants Program provides funding for community-based restoration projects in coastal wetlands and watersheds in the region. The purpose of the program is to further the goals of the WRP Regional Strategy; build local capacity to plan and implement wetland restoration projects; promote community involvement in wetlands restoration activities; and foster education about wetlands ecosystems. Environment Now, a non-profit group located in Santa Monica (<http://environmentnow.org>), administers the program.

The 2004 WRP Small Grants is funded Earth Island Institute (<http://www.earthisland.org>). Earth Island Institute (EII), founded in 1982 by veteran environmentalist David Brower, fosters the efforts of creative individuals by providing organizational support in developing projects for the conservation, preservation, and restoration of the global environment.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants include 501c(3) nonprofit organizations and local government agencies.

Eligible Projects: To be eligible for funding, projects must meeting the following general criteria:

1. **Preservation or restoration of a coastal wetland or coastal stream corridor –** Projects must have as a primary goal the preservation or restoration of a coastal wetland or coastal stream corridor in Southern California (from Point Conception south to the Mexican border). Preservation projects could include implementation of best management practices on both public and private lands. Planning projects are eligible, but restoration projects will be given a higher priority.
2. **Community Involvement/Education Element –** Projects must have a community involvement and/or education element.

Small Grants Program Funding Total: \$200,000 for fiscal year 2004-2005

Individual Grant Size: Grant awards will range from \$1,000 to \$30,000.

Project Selection: A selection committee that includes the Small Grants Program Administrator, one member from each of the WRP county task forces, and two members of the Wetlands Managers Group, will review the Small Grants Program applications. The grants committee will review all proposals and provide selection recommendations to the WRP Governing Board at its May 2004 meeting. The projects will then need approval from the Coastal Conservancy Board at its June 2004 meeting. See “Grant Process” below for additional details.

Selection Criteria: Small grants applications will be evaluated based on the WRP’s Project Evaluation Criteria (go to: <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp/>, click on ‘Project Evaluation Criteria’), plus the following considerations:

1. Degree to which the project will help build the capacity of local agencies or organizations to plan and implement wetlands restoration projects.
2. Extent to which the project will promote community involvement, particularly involvement beyond the traditional environmental constituency existing within the community.
3. Extent to which project will foster education about wetland ecosystems.
4. Extent to which the project contributes matching funds or services. There is no required match for the Small Grants Program; however, matching funds and services can help demonstrate broader community interest and support for the project.
5. Extent to which project furthers Earth Island Institutes core principles and values (see attached).

Notification: Notification of the grant award or denial will be made by the end of June 2004.

Other Considerations:

1. Proposals should represent projects that are ready to implement. Note that the Small Grants Program is designed for relatively low-dollar projects or components of projects that can be implemented quickly and effectively to achieve on-the-ground restoration while building a community's capacity for future, potentially larger projects and expanding education and outreach efforts. "Small" implies a project that has clearly defined goals/deliverables that can be achieved on the order of a year, rather than a project that is bogged down by the increased logistics (i.e. management, permitting, planning) of a larger project.
2. Do not submit a vague proposal that merely states goals without a specific strategy or planned actions and a timeline to achieve those goals. Be specific.
3. A group may submit more than one project; WRP will fund only one project from a group, however, so it is recommended the group picks their highest priority and dedicates resources to making that project a successful proposal.
4. Follow-on funding (funding for two consecutive grant cycles) to a project is possible but not likely since this would no longer constitute a small grant.
5. General funding to an ongoing program will not be granted; startup costs (capital costs) or a specific restoration project within a multiyear program may be considered.
6. Funding to an ongoing monitoring project will not be granted; startup costs (capital costs) for a monitoring project or monitoring tied to a specific restoration project may be considered.
7. Participation in the WRP County Task Force Meetings is highly desirable for groups wishing to submit project proposals.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. Application must be postmarked by **March 12, 2004**; electronic copies must be received by March 12, 2004.
2. Three hard copies should be sent to:
Shawn Kelly
SCWRP Small Grants Program
1716 Ocean Drive
Oxnard, CA 93035
3. An electronic copy should also be sent to Shawn Kelly at skelly@scwrp.org

Inquiries should be directed to: Shawn Kelly
WRP Grants Administrator
(805) 984-9531; skelly@scwrp.org

GRANT PROCESS

1. Applications are due March 12, 2004.
2. Grants committee will review applications and provide recommendations to the WRP Governing Board at its May 2004 meeting.
3. Applicants will be notified of grant award or denial following the Governing Board meeting, contingent upon approval of the Coastal Conservancy Board. At this point applicants may be asked to provide additional information about their project regarding CEQA review and consistency with local coastal planning.
4. The Coastal Conservancy staff will recommend approval of the small grants program and a programmatic grant to the managing organization at its June 2004 meeting.
5. Notification of final grant award will be made by the end of June 2004.
6. The Small Grants Program Administrator will set up grant agreements with successful applicants (July – September, 2004).
7. Additional Conservancy approval may be required for some projects at the September Board meeting.
8. Funding for all projects should be available no later than September 1, 2004.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Please use the application form when preparing your proposal. Each application should include:

1. Application Summary – one page maximum
2. Project narrative (4 page **maximum**) that includes
 - a. Site Description
 - b. Project Description – include the need for the project and specific project tasks to be completed.
 - c. Ecological benefits of project
 - d. Description of community involvement and/or education element of project
 - e. Summary of applicant's experience undertaking wetlands restoration projects.
3. Budget. Budget numbers should be rounded to the nearest \$100. Please note that the grant can not be used to pay for food or drink, even for volunteers.
4. Attachments
 - a. A regional map that clearly identifies the project area; and a site-scale map that shows the location of project elements. Electronic copies of maps should be sent as separate files, preferable in jpg or gif format. Do not include unsolicited attachments such as resumes, letters of support, etc.

Please follow these guidelines for emailing proposals and attachments: Proposal summary and narrative should be emailed as **one** file in Microsoft Word. Name the electronic file by the project name. **DO NOT EMBED PICTURES** into the project proposal. Pictures should be attached as separate files. If possible, please send electronic copies of all maps and photos (jpg or gif are the preferred formats).

Please keep in mind that the Program Administrator may receive up to 50 applications or more, both via mail and email, and that applications that do not follow directions or are poorly organized in content or submittal are not appreciated. Late applications are not accepted.

An electronic copy of the Small Grants Application form is available on the WRP web site at: http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp/documents/SGP_prop_template.dot. Please use this form. If you are unable to open the file, please contact Shawn Kelly at skelly@scwrp.org.



Earth Island Institute

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RESTORATION CORE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

The foundation of these themes involves core principles and values that will, when incorporated and applied through various projects and activities, make a substantial contribution to increased public awareness and involvement in meaningful environmental conservation.

Ecological Integrity: Learning about, conserving, preserving, and restoring ecological functions in the community that is the focus of the proposal is important. This means looking at a broader array of issue areas than would be the case if a single species or purpose were being pursued. This approach reflects John Muir's reminder that "everything is hitched to everything else." As a practical matter, your proposals should take into account ecological dynamics in the community and explain how implementation of the proposals will enhance the integrity (health and vitality) of the ecological system or essential components of that system.

Service to the Human Community: Human communities are part of the greater ecological systems of the planet. The conservation of human and natural communities for the benefit of current and future generations of life is what environmental stewardship is largely about. Consistent with David Brower's call for Global CPR (Conservation, Preservation and Restoration), environmental activism involves a community of interest that, in a highly mobile society, can be taken from place to place and applied on the ground in whatever geographic community one is in. Themes that should be reflected in your proposals include contributions to the collective well being of adjacent or nearby human communities, community-based involvement and grassroots activism, transferability of lessons learned to other communities, and promotion of cultural diversity through participation of people who have not historically been involved in environmental activism.

Capacity Building: An underlying purpose should be the development of capacity to initiate and sustain environmental stewardship that promotes CPR for the Earth. Capacity building involves recruitment, training, education, coordination, sharing of support resources, creative leveraging of resources, and creation of a program that is self-sustaining over time. Essentially, envisioned here are tools for empowerment of community-based activism that can be maintained, expanded and perhaps serve as a model for other communities. This aspect of any proposal can also serve to build a political constituency to advocate on behalf of Global CPR.

Innovation, Multiple Benefits and Leveraging: Proposals should include creative, innovative ideas that have multiple benefits and are designed to leverage other sources of human, fiscal and technical support. For example, proposals involving both environmental stewardship and education in community schools could leverage support from several sources through matching grants and other funding opportunities. Other examples include proposals that involve habitat creation or restoration using community volunteers, education and training, providing recreational opportunities, and maintaining the facilities or habitat areas as a community-based initiative that generates matching funds or other forms of revenue which could then be used to support additional community needs.

Earth Island Institute

Funding Criteria for Southern California Restoration Work

- ***Restoration activities in riparian corridors in both urban and non-urban areas;***
- ***Inclusion of diverse and under-served communities;***
- ***Expansion of public education efforts, including capacity building and ongoing monitoring; and***
- ***Inclusion of some matching funding and building connections within the environmental and social justice community.***